

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by the Chairman, Mr. Carpender, and the following members were present:

Mr. Richard Carpender, Chair
Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Vice Chair

Mrs. Marge Levesque, Clerk
Mr. Michael Buddemeyer
Mr. Jamie Heaney

Ms. Marilyn King
Ms. Angela Volpicelli

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Patti Cofield

Absent: Amy Larsen (High School Liaison)

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 7-0.

Public Session recessed at 6:31 PM and resumed at 7:02 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mr. Carpender reported that at the February 24, 2009, meeting, an Executive Session was held prior to the School Committee meeting and was reported out when the Committee returned to Public Session. At the end of the meeting, the Committee adjourned back into Executive Session. When they came back out into Public Session, it was reported out. Mr. Carpender stated that out of an abundance of caution, he was reporting this meeting again. He stated that there was a motion made by Mr. Buddemeyer and seconded by Ms. Wedge concerning negotiations. The motion passed unanimously. When the Committee returned to Public Session at that time, there was a question from an audience member asking what the nature of the motion was. At the time, Mr. Carpender repeated that it was a labor negotiations motion. He informed the audience member that he would speak to the School Department's attorney regarding whether or not he needed to report out the nature of the motion, and he was informed by the attorney that the way he reported out was correct. He does not need to report it out until such time as the motion comes to fruition. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to seal the minutes from the February 24, 2009, Executive Session. So voted. Mr. Carpender announced that an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting, and no votes taken. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to seal the minutes. So voted. Mr. Carpender announced that he had the pleasure of attending Portsmouth High School Junior, Andrew Kelly's, Eagle Scout Award Ceremony on Sunday. He also announced that he attended a meeting yesterday of the Aquidneck Island Advisory Committee, which is looking at regionalization. Dr. Lusi, Assistant Superintendent Jermain, and Ms. Wedge were also in attendance. A presentation of some draft information was given by RIPEC, but the work is not completed and no conclusions have been drawn.

2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi congratulated our high school sports team. She announced that our girls' basketball team was victorious at Rhode Island College last Saturday and would be facing Barrington this weekend. Our cheerleaders did very well in the state cheerleading finals and won their division. Dr. Lusi also reported on the meeting with the Aquidneck Island Group. She stated that they were initially hoping the RIPEC report would be done by early March, but the work has been delayed given all of the work RIPEC has had to do for the General Assembly. They are hoping to have a draft report when the group meets at the end of March. Dr. Lusi reported that she also attended the monthly meeting of the Regional Special Education Board last month, and she did receive an update on the region's budget for 2009. Right now, the budget is tight but on track for a balanced budget this year. The one pressure point is if the Governor's retirement proposal goes through, we will have to pay a number of teachers their retirement severance package. The Region's Finance Director, Paul Martin, will look further into the provisions of each district's contract to try and better anticipate potential impacts.
- a) **Teaching and Learning:** Assistant Superintendent Jermain announced that the PMS Guidance staff and Police Chief Hebert presented the issues on cyber-bullying to the middle school students and parents to better educate them. She thanked Chief Hebert for assisting with the Substance Abuse Task Force, as well. She announced that a Health and Wellness meeting will take place on Monday at 6:00 PM at the Administration Building. Mrs. Jermain also reported that Portsmouth schools are trying to go green as much as possible. To save paper, all schools will have newsletters up on their websites and on listservs. We are trying to reach out via email as much as possible. Mrs. Jermain stated that Kindergarten registration is ongoing, and the online process is running smoothly now.
- b) **Finance and Operations:** Dr. Lusi announced that Ms. Tague is away at an Impact Aid conference.
- c) **High School Liaison:** Absent

Ms. Wedge announced that Elmhurst School's Nibbles and Bids Fundraiser and the Annual PHS Boosters Fundraisers are both being held on April 4th. Nibbles and Bids will be held at The Glen Manor House, and the PHS Boosters Fundraiser will be held at Brick Alley Pub. There is free parking in both Brick Market parking lots.

Mrs. Levesque announced that the Portsmouth/Middletown Robotics team won the New Hampshire Regional competition.

Dr. Lusi announced that we will be withdrawing the approval of the minutes and Business Agenda Item c).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held February 24, 2009. This item was withdrawn and will be presented at the next meeting.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) **Coaching Appts. – PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee affirms the coaching appointment at Portsmouth High School for the 2008-09 school year as presented.”
- b) **Coaching Appts. – PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee affirms the coaching appointments at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2008-09 school year as presented.”

Ms. Wedge made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0. Dr. Lusi announced the following appointments:

- a) Jay Pacheco, Assistant Coach, Baseball (PHS)
- b) Caitlin Gavin, Track and Field Assistant Coach (PMS)
Lindsay Phillips, Track and Field Coach (PMS)

5. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Approval of January Financials.** Presented by Ms. Tague. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the January financials as presented. So voted 7-0.
- b) **Approval of Policy #4355 – Computer Laptop & Equipment Use Agreement, 1st Reading.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to approve proposed Policy #4355, Computer Laptop and Equipment Use Agreement, as a first reading. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0.
- c) **Approval of Policy #3460 – Financial Returns from Athletic Events, 1st Reading.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the School Committee approves the proposed changes to Policy #3460, Financial Returns from Athletic Events, as a first reading.” This item will be presented at a future meeting.
- d) **Approval of Policy #3269 – Acceptance of Donated Items, 1st Reading.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to approve the proposed changes to Policy #3269, Acceptance of Donated Items, as a first reading. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0. Elmhurst PTO President, Kelly Heitmann, asked if their PTO bylaws needed to be in sync with this policy, and Dr. Lusi stated that they should be. Donations to the schools are owned by the Portsmouth School Department.

- e) **Approval of Policy #6111 – School Calendar, 1st Reading.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to approve the proposed changes to Policy #6111, School Calendar, as a first reading. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0. Dr. Lusi announced that Little Compton has an identical policy.
- f) **Approval of Policy #5117 – Student Assignments to Elementary Schools, 1st Reading.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to approve the proposed changes to Policy #5117, Student Assignments to Elementary Schools, as a first reading. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0.
- g) **Acceptance of Donations.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to accept the donation from PMS Parent Teacher Organization in the amount of \$5,827.84 for the proposed purchasing of technology equipment of ELMOs and projection units. These items will become the property of the School Department. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to accept the donation of \$13,872 to upgrade the telephone system at Hathaway, donated by Hathaway Parents Association. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0. Mr. Carpender stated that this is the same kind of support we get from all of our PTOs and booster groups. It's a real testament to the parents in this community because of our budgetary constraints. Dr. Lusi stated that we could bring the representatives from the groups back to be spotlighted.
- h) **Update on Strategic Planning.** Dr. Lusi announced that the Future Search Conference Report with photos will be on the website shortly. She will send a letter via email to everyone who attended the conference and will have some copies of the report made in color. Dr. Lusi announced the members of the Steering Committee. She stated that the Steering Committee had its first meeting on March 4th, and they worked on drafting a vision statement and a set of values. They will also be analyzing a large amount of data in some detail including the Future Search Conference Report, the Berkshire Performance Audit Report, and information gathered from the student session. They will also be surveying our students electronically in Grades 6 to 12 to gather additional input. They will then work on goals and identification of objectives. That work will be turned over to our administrative leadership team to do a further outlining of work to be done and the timing and sequence for the next several years. Dr. Lusi stated that she will bring the document back to the Committee. Mrs. Levesque asked if a survey of graduated students was being done, and Dr. Lusi stated that we did not build that into the process. Jan Williams recommended that we go back in a year or two do a survey of our students and maybe graduates could be surveyed at that time. Mrs. Terri Cortvriend asked if the Future Search attendees are going to reconvene, and Dr. Lusi replied that a 2-hour session will be held towards the end of May.

6. **SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA**

- a) **Finance.** Mr. Buddemeyer announced that the next Finance Subcommittee meeting will be held on March 11th, at 5:00 PM, at the PHS Library. He stated that if anyone has a report or anything they'd like to submit to the subcommittee, it needs to be submitted prior to the meeting so that the subcommittee has time to evaluate the information and comment on it at a future meeting.
- b) **Policy.** No further report.
- c) **Facilities.** Mr. Buddemeyer announced that the Facilities Subcommittee is being finalized this week. The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 18th, at 5:30 PM, at the PHS Library.
 - 1) **Approval of Progress Payment for PHS Gym Mezzanine.** A motion was made by Mr. Buddemeyer to approve the payment of Invoice #2, dated December 17, 2008, in the amount of \$7,000.00, to Torrado Architects for architectural and engineering services for construction administration of the Portsmouth High School Gym Mezzanine Project. Seconded by Ms. Wedge. So voted 7-0. Final payment.

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to adjourn the meeting. So voted. The Public Session adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Marge Levesque, Clerk